

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



February 21, 1997

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-10-97

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: EARNED INCOME CREDIT OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.s I-15-96, dated March 15, 1996; I-50-94, dated December 30, 1994; I-04-94, dated February 1, 1994; and I-07-93, dated February 16, 1993.

This letter transmits copies of the Earned Income Credit (EIC) outreach stuffer which will be mass mailed to most recipients of Medi-Cal in February 1997 by the Department of Health Services (DHS) in a joint effort with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

The purpose of the EIC outreach is to encourage welfare clients to work or continue to work by making them aware of this special tax benefit available from the federal government for low-income working families. The EIC refund is not counted as income when benefits are figured in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Food Stamp and Medi-Cal programs. Therefore, the effect of the tax benefit may be significant to families in our current welfare system.

Research shows that many people do not claim the earned income credit because they are either unaware of the credit or they complete the wrong tax form. To receive the EIC, a federal tax Form 1040 or 1040A must be completed along with a Schedule EIC. In addition, if a person did not originally file for the EIC, he or she can file an amended tax form (1040X) with a Schedule EIC within three years from the date the original return was filed. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers free tax preparation through a program called VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). The public may obtain information about VITA locations by calling 1-800-829-1040. The IRS Regional Coordinators (see attached) can provide counties with information about VITA locations, the availability of free electronic filing, and a limited supply of the EIC brochures and posters currently being developed by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C. The Regional Coordinator contact list is for administrative use only and is not to be given to the public.

The EIC stuffer is not a required form so it will not be stocked by the Department. A camera-ready copy of the stuffer is attached. The stuffer was developed only in English and Spanish, but counties can request a camera-ready copy of the Cambodian, Chinese, or Vietnamese translations by calling or writing:

Language Services Bureau
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 9-24
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 654-1282/ATSS 464-1282

If you have any questions regarding the EIC outreach campaign, please contact Jan DeSilva of the AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 657-2314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Attachments

**WESTERN REGION
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)
TAXPAYER EDUCATION COORDINATORS**

Los Angeles (213) 894-4574
300 N. Los Angeles Street, Room 5202
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Francisco Bay Area (510) 637-2473
1301 Clay Street, Suite 1500S
Oakland, CA 94612-5210

Orange (714) 360-2094
Chet Holifield Federal Building
P.O. Box 30210
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0210

Sacramento (916) 974-5088
P.O. Box 2900, Stop SA 5650
Sacramento, CA 95812

Santa Clara (408) 494-8123
P.O. Box 100, Stop HQ 6300
San Jose, CA 95113-2397

Note: If you have trouble reaching someone in the local offices listed above,
call the Headquarters Office for the Western region at (408) 494-8503.

GENERAL IRS INFORMATION: TOLL-FREE: 1-800-329-1040

Workers!

Claim Your Earned Income Credit

There may be extra cash just waiting for you to claim from the IRS! The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a special tax break for people who work, and this means extra cash in your pocket!

How much extra cash? In 1996, if you earned less than:

- \$28,495 and are raising two or more children, you could receive up to \$3,556
- \$25,078 and are raising at least one child, you could receive up to \$2,152
- \$9,500 and are between the ages of 25 and 64 with no children, you could receive up to \$323

Just think of all the ways this extra cash could help you and your family — paying off bills or making repairs on your car.

Claiming your EIC is easy. Just file your federal tax return Form 1040 or 1040A and Schedule EIC. You can still get an EIC refund even if you don't owe any income tax. The EIC refund is not counted as income when your AFDC, Food Stamp, or Medi-Cal benefits are figured.

Free tax filing assistance is available from VITA, a volunteer group that can help you file a return and get your EIC quickly. For more information about EIC or VITA, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, Pete Wilson, Governor, HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY, Sandra R. Smoley, R.N., Secretary
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, Eloise Anderson, Director, TEMP 2135 (ENG/SP) (11/96)

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¡Trabajadores!

Soliciten su crédito por ingresos ganados

¡Es posible que haya dinero extra esperando a que usted lo solicite del Departamento de Impuestos Federales (IRS)! El crédito federal por ingresos ganados (EIC) es una oportunidad especial en relación a los impuestos para las personas que trabajan, y esto significa más dinero en su bolsillo.

¿Cuánto dinero extra? Si en 1996, usted ganó menos de:

- \$28,495 y está manteniendo a dos o más niños, usted pudiera recibir hasta \$3,556
- \$25,078 y está manteniendo por lo menos a un niño, usted pudiera recibir hasta \$2,152
- \$9,500 y tiene entre 25 y 64 años de edad y no tiene niños, usted pudiera recibir hasta \$323

Nada más piense en todas las maneras en que este dinero extra le pudiera ayudar a usted y a su familia— pagar cuentas pendientes o hacer reparaciones en su carro.

El solicitar su EIC es fácil. Simplemente presente su formulario federal de impuestos 1040 o 1040A y también un "Schedule EIC" (anexo para el EIC). Usted puede recibir el reembolso aunque no deba impuestos sobre sus ingresos. El reembolso del EIC no se cuenta como ingresos cuando se calculan sus beneficios de Asistencia para Familias con Niños Necesitados (AFDC), estampillas para comida o del Programa de Asistencia Médica de California (Medi-Cal).

Hay a la disposición asistencia gratuita en relación a la declaración de impuestos, a través del Programa de Asistencia Ofrecida por Voluntarios para la Declaración de Impuestos (VITA). Este programa está formado por un grupo de voluntarios que le puede ayudar a presentar una declaración y obtener su EIC rápidamente. Para más información acerca del EIC o VITA, llame al IRS al 1-800-829-1040.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA (ESTADO DE CALIFORNIA)
Pete Wilson, Gobernador
HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY (SECRETARÍA DE SALUD Y BIENESTAR PÚBLICO)
Sandra R. Smiley, R.N., Secretaria
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES DE CALIFORNIA)
Eloise Anderson, Directora
TEMP 2135 (ENG/SP) (11/96)

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